

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method in a multi-mode wireless communication device for identifying a preferred system, the method comprising:
  - 5 receiving preferred roaming list information including system identifier information and enhanced roaming indicators associated with the system identifier information;
  - storing the preferred roaming list information;
  - transmitting a request for functionality extension table information associated with the enhanced roaming indicators;
  - 10 receiving the functionality extension table information in response to the transmitted request;
  - storing the functionality extension table information;
  - identifying a currently available preferred system based upon the system identifier information; and
  - 15 conveying information indicative of the identified currently available preferred system based upon the functionality extension table information.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - 20 accepting a user input indicative of a user selection of the currently available preferred system; and
  - transmitting a registration request to the user selected currently available preferred system.
- 25 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the preferred roaming list information further includes preference status associated with the system identifier information.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein identifying the currently available preferred system by:
  - 30 searching for currently available systems;
  - obtaining system identifiers of the currently available systems; and

selecting from the currently available systems a system having a system identifier found in the system identifier information in the preferred roaming list information, the system identifier having the most preferred status.

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5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
transmitting a registration request to the selected currently available systems a system.

10 6. The method of claim 3, wherein identifying the currently available preferred system by:

mapping the functionality extension table information and the system identifier information into a functionality extension table;  
searching for currently available systems;  
obtaining system identifiers of the currently available systems; and  
selecting from the currently available systems a system having a system identifier found in the functionality extension table, the system identifier having the most preferred status.

20 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the functionality extension table information is synchronized with the preferred roaming list information.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
updating previously stored functionality extension table information with the functionality extension table information received in response to the request.

25 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the system identifier information includes at least one of:

30 wireless local area networks information;  
Advanced Mobile Phone System network information;  
Global System for Mobile network information;

Time Division Multiple Access network information; and  
Code Division Multiple Access network information.

10. A method in a multi-mode wireless communication device for identifying a preferred system, the method comprising:
  - receiving preferred roaming list information including system identifier information, enhanced roaming indicators associated with the system identifier information, and preference status associated with the system identifier information;
  - requesting functionality extension table information associated with the enhanced roaming indicators;
  - receiving the functionality extension table information;
  - 10 mapping the functionality extension table information and the system identifier information into a functionality extension table;
  - identifying a currently available preferred system based upon the functionality extension table; and
  - conveying information indicative of the identified currently available preferred system based upon the functionality extension table.
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11. The method of claim 12, wherein the preferred roaming list information further includes preference status associated with the system identifier information, and
  - 20 wherein identifying the currently available preferred system further comprises:
    - searching for currently available systems;
    - obtaining system identifiers of the currently available systems; and
    - selecting from the currently available systems a system having a system identifier found in the functionality extension table, the system having the most preferred status.
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12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
  - 30 updating the functionality extension table with the functionality extension table information received in response to the request.

13. A multi-mode wireless communication device configured to identify a preferred system, the multi-mode wireless communication device comprising:
- a receiver configured to receive preferred roaming list information including system identifier information and enhanced roaming indicators associated with the system identifier information, the receiver further configured to receive functionality extension table information associated with the enhanced roaming indicators;
- a transmitter coupled to the receiver, the transmitter configured to transmit a request for the functionality extension table information in response to the reception of the preferred roaming list information;
- a system identifier module coupled to the receiver, the system identifier module configured to identify a currently available preferred system based upon the system identifier information; and
- a user interface coupled to the system identifier module, the user interface configured to convey information indicative of the currently available preferred system based upon the functionality extension table information.
14. The multi-mode wireless communication device of claim 13, wherein the user interface is further configured to accept a user input indicative of a user selection of the currently available preferred system.
15. The multi-mode wireless communication device of claim 14, wherein the transmitter is further configured to transmit a registration request to the user selected currently available preferred system.
16. The multi-mode wireless communication device of claim 13, wherein:
- the receiver is further configured to search for currently available systems, and
- the system identifier module is further configured to obtain system identifiers of the currently available systems and to correlate the system

identifiers of the currently available systems with the system identifier information.

17. The multi-mode wireless communication device of claim 13, further comprising a functionality extension table generator coupled to the receiver and to the system identifier module, the functionality extension table generator configured to map the functionality extension table information and associated system identifier information into a functionality extension table, wherein:

the receiver is further configured to search for currently available systems, and

the system identifier module is further configured to obtain system identifiers of the currently available systems and to correlate the system identifiers of the currently available systems with the mapped system identifier information in the functionality extension table.

18. The multi-mode wireless communication device of claim 13, wherein the system identifier information includes at least one of:

wireless local area networks information;

Advanced Mobile Phone System network information;

Global System for Mobile network information;

Time Division Multiple Access network information; and

Code Division Multiple Access network information.